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9 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT : Social Science Research (Item 3 on PSB Agenda, 11 September)

1. PROBLEM — To present CIA's position as to methods of coordinating Social Science Research.
2. ASSUMPTIONS — It is assumed that, although the agenda for the forthcoming PSB meeting specifies that "no paper" is to be presented, the so-called "██████ Report" (attached as TAB A) will be the basis of the discussion. 25X1A
3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM — The "██████ Report" has been the subject of protracted negotiations between PSB and CIA, culminating in the Director's letter to Dr. ██████ dated 6 August 1952 (attached as TAB B). The major issue in these negotiations has been as to whether CIA budgetary figures would be included in the report. At no time have CIA's views as to the substance of the report been formally notified to PSB, although Mr. Becker has made his views known to ██████. 25X1A

4. DISCUSSION —

- a. The "██████ Report" recommends the delegation to PSB, by NSC Directive, of the responsibility for coordinating, on a government-wide basis, all basic social science research being carried on for governmental purposes, whether inside or outside the government.
- b. There are three major considerations which make this recommendation unsound:
 - (1) The term "Social Science Research" involves a "grab-bag" concept which suggests an illusory exactness. The report itself recognizes the tentative scope of the concept of "the social sciences" and their relative present immaturity.

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- (2) The recommendation, as adopted, would seriously conflict with the Director's statutory duty of coordinating the intelligence activities of the government since, as is obvious (and is apparent from the report), basic social science research constitutes an integral part of the intelligence activities of the government, not only in CIA but also in a number of other agencies.
 - (3) Although the coordination of research activities is a laudable purpose, it would be premature at this time to institute over-all government-wide coordination pending completion of the coordination of various segments of research activities. At this time coordination of economic research is being achieved by the EIC; the Research and Development Board has under way a project for coordinating all research in the Department of Defense relating to psychological warfare; within CIA a survey has been jointly undertaken by DD/P and DD/I respecting the intelligence support requirements of the operational offices; the Department of State is engaged in psychological warfare research in support of the departmental programs and the national intelligence effort, and is continuing to explore its capability to coordinate research in this area.
 - (4) The intelligence agencies continue to be most reluctant to have outside direction of their research activities, which they regard as a necessary part of their individual intelligence activities.
5. CONCLUSIONS — The injection of PSB into this situation at this time is not only beyond the proper function of PSB, but would also set back the progress that is being made. Such progress will be reflected in improved intelligence support for the operational offices of concern to PSB.
 6. ACTION RECOMMENDED — That the recommendations of the Loomis Report, no matter how presented, be disapproved.

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CONCURRENCE:

LOFTUS E. BECKER
Deputy Director Intelligence

Deputy Director (Plans)